IPERS Employer Bulletin 2020-2

DATE: March 20, 2020
TO: Reporting Officials
FROM: Donna M. Mueller, CEO
SUBJECT: Guidance for Schools

The increasing prevalence of COVID-19 has created several unique situations for Iowa school districts. Answers to a few common questions are below.

When a school closes as a safety measure to contain COVID-19 but continues to pay its employees, is that pay IPERS-covered?
Yes. IPERS considers this administrative leave, and employers must withhold IPERS contributions.

Is unemployment compensation for furloughed or laid off employees considered covered wages?
No. Third party payments are not IPERS-covered wages.

If an employee is planning to retire at the end of the school year, what is his/her termination date if he/she does not return to duty before the end of the school year?
Please use your school district’s original end of school date as the employee’s termination date instead of the last day he/she worked in the classroom.

Example:
Original Last Day of School = May 28, 2020
Actual Last day on Duty = March 13, 2020 (School closes for safety reasons)
Termination Date should be May 28, 2020
Last Check Date could be August 2020

INQUIRIES
For further information, contact the Employer Relations Bureau at 877-473-7799. Please reference IPERS Employer Bulletin 2020-2.